

## **EXERCISE (NLE11) --- EXERCISE (NLE11) --- EXERCISE (NLE11)**

For immediate release  
May 18, 2011

### **OBTAINING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN A DISASTER**

INDIANAPOLIS—As a result of Monday's earthquake, Hoosiers may have left behind necessary items including prescription medications and other maintenance drugs. There are several options available if you left your prescription drugs at home, or your prescription drugs have been damaged, lost or depleted as a result of the disaster.

Pharmacies outside of the disaster area may provide the necessary prescription drugs. Chain pharmacies may have patient information as well as prescription and dosage information, and may be able to help with providing emergency medication.

The American Red Cross is another resource where people can get prescriptions, medical supplies and emergency medical treatment. Red Cross Health Services volunteers are located in shelters and at service centers set up near disaster sites. Go to <http://app.redcross.org/nss-app/> to see the list of open Red Cross shelters.

Additionally, <http://icerx.com> is a permanent database that stores all of the necessary prescription information during emergencies, including:

- Drug name
- Dosage
- Number prescribed
- Your doctor's name
- Name of the pharmacy that you visited

### **For Hoosiers on Medicaid and Medicare**

#### **Getting your prescription drugs**

You will not be required to go to your usual network pharmacy for replacement medicine. You should be able to find another network pharmacy nearby by calling your Medicare drug plan. If you can't reasonably get to a network pharmacy, your plan has rules to help you get drugs in an emergency at an out-of-network pharmacy. Keep in mind you may pay more for prescription drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy.

#### **Using in-network pharmacies**

- Most prescriptions can be transferred from one network pharmacy to another and transferred back to your pharmacy when the emergency ends. This includes transferring prescriptions across state lines when necessary. If you need help finding the closest network pharmacy, call your prescription drug plan.
- The new pharmacy will need to know the name of your regular pharmacy and the name of the drugs you need to have refilled

- If you lost your Medicare prescription drug card and don't know your plan's telephone number, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get your plan's contact information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

**Using out-of-network pharmacies**

- When you buy your drugs at an out-of-network pharmacy, you will probably have to pay the full cost of the drugs when you have your prescriptions filled.
- Save your receipts so you can ask your prescription drug plan to give you a refund for the difference between the in-network and out-of-network amounts for the prescriptions you buy. To get a refund, submit a paper claim to your plan.
- Call your plan to find out where to send your paper claim or for any other information about the plan's out-of-network rules.

**Additional (extended-day) supplies**

- If you think you might not be able to return home for a long period of time, you may consider getting an extended-day supply (a 60 to 90-day supply) of your prescription drugs. Call your plan to ask whether they offer extended-day supplies and which pharmacies you can use to get them.

*For more information: Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.hhs.gov/>), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (<http://www.cms.gov/>) and the Consumer Health Information Corporation (<http://www.hhs.gov/>).*

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**THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT FOR DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC:****Media Contact:**

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